TL305

PEACE IN EAST TIMOR

CHAIN LETTER TO BE SENT TO 5 FRIENDS

(Please translate if necessary)

Dear friend,

Can you help contribute to peace in East Timor by taking part in this chain letter campaign?

You need to do only two things: (1) Write to the UN Secretary-General along the lines of the sample below or by copying it; and (2) Photocopy this page and send it to five friends.

The purpose of the exercise is to impress on the UN Secretary-General that people all over the world are concerned about the conflict in East Timor and expect the UN to resolve it.

The former Portuguese colony of East Timor, one hour's flight north-west of Darwin, Australia, was taken over by Indonesia by force in 1975. In human, economic, and cultural terms the cost to the East Timorese people has been horrific. Some 200,000 people, almost one in three of the population, have died from the violence. Last November, the world caught a glimpse of the reality when Indonesian soldiers massacred at least 100 East Timorese civilians in the presence of foreign witnesses.

The majority of East Timorese reject their forced integration with Indonesia and continue to call for international support particularly from the United Nations. In particular, they want the UN to include them in talks with Indonesia and Portugal to resolve the conflict by dialogue.

The UN is the appropriate body to redress the gross injustices inflicted on this small, relatively defenceless, people. It has condemned Indonesia's actions, but has failed to apply any real pressure.

Your letter, and thousands of others, to the UN Secretary-General will help convince him that peace and justice in East Timor must be a top priority during his term in office.

Thankyou for passing this page on to five of your friends.

Yours sincerely

(Signature)

His Excellency Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General of the United Nations
UN Secretariat
UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017 USA

(Address)

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Dear Mr Boutros-Ghali,

As a concerned citizen of the world community, I wish to add my voice to those calling for talks to end the conflict in East Timor.

The massacre of civilian protesters in Dili last November has demonstrated again the deep conflict in East Timor which the international community has done little to end.

It is time to act. The UN, which exists to protect the weak and to uphold the principle of self-determination, should promote talks on the future of East Timor between all parties, including the East Timorese resistance.

I appreciate the many burdens of your high office and acknowledge the constructive role of the UN in resolving other conflicts through dialogue.

After nearly 17 years of conflict and suffering in East Timor, however, I believe the resources and authority of the UN should be more vigorously employed to find a just and lasting solution to this tragic item of unfinished UN business.

Yours sincerely

(Signature)

Sponsored by East Timor Talks Campaign, 124 Napier Street, Fitzroy 3065, Australia. Telephone: (03) 417 7505